

GI Sentenced for Refusal To Open His Footlocker

FT. SILL, Okla., June 1 (AP) — Pvt. Andrew Stapp, who disobeyed a direct command by a superior officer in order to protect his "right of free speech," was sentenced by a court-martial today to 45 days of unconfined hard labor.

The action created a disturbance in the court-martial hearing room as seven anti-war demonstrators from New York City protested the action by chanting. No attempt was made to remove them.

Stapp, 23, from Merion, Pa., also will forfeit two-thirds of a month's pay—about \$67—and be reduced to class E 1, lowest pay grade in the Army.

The court-martial, centered

on Stapp's refusal to open his footlocker at an inspection May 9.

Stapp, who says he is "a socialist in a revolutionary society," said the footlocker contained such literature as the socialist workers' Militant, the Communist Worker, Ramparts magazine, and the works of Karl Marx and slain Black Muslim Leader Malcolm X.

"I would have let them see, but not seize, my personal possessions," Stapp said. "He—the commanding officer—made it quite clear he was going to take it, not just look at it."

Stapp's lawyer contended the order was unlawful and a violation of free speech.